

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Oliver et al.

Application No.

Filed:

For: **SYSTEM FOR MANAGEMENT
OF TRANSACTIONS ON
NETWORKS (Amended to:
MANAGING TRANSACTIONS
ON A NETWORK: FOUR OR
MORE PARTIES)**

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Atty Docket: 005-905-330

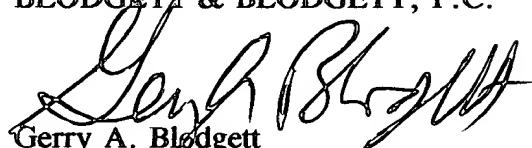
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPENDIX B TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Attached is the substitute Abstract for this case mentioned in the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
BLODGETT & BLODGETT, P.C.


Gerry A. Blodgett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,090

Date: 6/22/2000

CUSTOMER NUMBER 20433
BLODGETT & BLODGETT, P.C.
43 Highland Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2797
(508) 753-5533

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for managing user accounts and controlling anonymous access to resources over data networks for a plurality of provider members in a manner to preserve the secrecy of the identity of a user who is in a home provider's user/customer base. The system includes a means for sharing non-identifying user information and charges among a plurality of service provider members, including a home provider and an outside provider, a means for enabling a user who is registered as a customer with the home provider to anonymously access the resources of the outside provider, a sharing means adapted to allow the system to permit the home provider to enable access by the user to the resources of the outside provider without requiring either personal identification or an open account for the user at the outside provider, and a verification means separate from the home provider adapted to allow the outside provider to determine the user's access privileges and criteria. The verification means may include a token and authentication server. The verification means preferably does not have access to personal identification information of the user. Preferably the verification server is separate from the provider members. In another aspect, the system includes means for enabling a user who is registered as a customer with the home provider to access the resources of the outside provider, while allowing the appearance that the resources are accessed directly from the home provider.